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BAGHDAD FOR TUELLER AND ERELI

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: BAHRAIN NOMINATES AMBASSADOR TO BAGHDAD

11. (SBU) Ambassador Saeed Al-Faihani, an advisor to Bahrain's Foreign Minister, confirmed to Charge an al Jazeera report that Bahrain had nominated an ambassador to Iraq. Faihani said the GOB requested Iraq's agreement July 7 for Salah Ali Al-Maliki. Faihani said al-Maliki works in the ministry's international organizations department, and recently returned from a two-year tour in New York.

12. (SBU) A former MFA colleague of Maliki's described him to poloff as a Sunni, in his mid-thirties, and married to a Qatari woman who lives in Qatar with their two children.

13. (SBU) In recent weeks, the MFA has offered the job to at least three others, who declined. One was Saeed Al-Majed, foreign affairs director for the opposition (Shi'a) Wifaq party. Bahrain's last chief of mission in Baghdad, CDA Hassan Malallah Al-Ansari, was withdrawn after being injured in a July, 2005 attack.

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